

California, and after retiring from the Air Force, he became President of Air North in Vermont, and then president of Dolphin Airways in Tampa, Florida. Dick was an avid entrepreneur and started several additional businesses in Florida including a gift shop, a sheet metal business, and an interior landscaping company.

Our hearts are with Dick's wife, Dawn, and his children and grandchildren in this time of sorrow. I hope my colleagues will join me honoring this remarkable man who was a lifelong patriot dedicated to his country and his family. His humility, kindness, and compassion continue to inspire those who knew him and he will be greatly missed in our community.

IN SUPPORT OF U.S. SOUTHERN
COMMAND'S EFFORTS IN EL
SALVADOR

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the humanitarian assistance efforts of the U.S. Southern Command, whose headquarters is in south Florida.

Last week, El Salvador was hit with torrential rain storms, causing massive flooding and mudslides that devastated parts of that country.

Nearly 200 people were killed. Many thousands more were left stranded and in immediate need of assistance.

The very next day—the same day our Nation paused to celebrate Veterans Day—U.S. troops deployed nearby in Honduras boarded helicopters bound for the affected areas. These troops spent their Veterans' Day partnering with their counterparts in El Salvador, supporting them in saving lives and fulfilling a mission of cooperation that continues to serve our Nation well.

In just four days our troops distributed more than 217,000-pounds of aid to villages completely isolated due to damaged roads and bridges. They brought food, water, milk, clothing and other emergency necessities.

I understand that these airlifts were the only source of lifesaving supplies for the stranded village.

So, Madam Speaker, I rise to offer my thoughts and prayers to the people of El Salvador, and to also express my appreciation and admiration for the members of U.S. Southern Command.

HONORING JUDGE SOLOMON
CASSEB, JR.

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak of sad tidings. The south Texas legal community lost a great leader and a great friend on October 16, 2009, when Judge Solomon Casseb, Jr. passed away at the age of 94.

A native San Antonian, Judge Casseb graduated from Central Catholic High School and St. Mary's University before earning his law degree at the University of Texas Law School in 1938. After several years in private practice, he enlisted as a private in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II, and was honorably discharged as a Major by the time he returned from overseas. He then practiced law until his appointment and two subsequent elections to serve as a Judge of the 57th District Court in Bexar County. He presided over many important cases during his career, though none may be more famous than 1984's Texaco case, which resulted in what was the largest award of damages in history.

During his time on the bench, Judge Casseb was repeatedly honored by his colleagues in the legal community time and again as an outstanding jurist, and the endowed Judge Solomon Casseb Jr. Research Professorship in Law at the University of Texas Law School stands as a tribute to the esteem in which he was held.

Before and after he obtained senior status in 1985, Judge Casseb worked to improve the lives of the people of South Texas outside of his official duties as well. He was a co-trustee of the Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust and was a bold and diligent advocate for the poorest citizens of his community.

Solomon Casseb Jr. was a great judge, a great friend, and a great man. His family, friends, and all those who had the privilege to know him will miss him deeply.

THIS THANKSGIVING IN HONOR OF
ALL THE ARMED FORCES AND
THEIR FAMILIES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I submit a heartfelt poem penned by Capitol Guide Albert Caswell, entitled "This Thanksgiving" in honor of all the members of the Armed Forces and their families who are separated by war and death this Thanksgiving. Our thoughts go out to all of them this Thanksgiving. Bless them all.

This is a special Thanksgiving as we recognize the success of Cold War veterans from Korea to Vietnam and across the world who achieved victory on the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall inspired by Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, and Pope John Paul II working with Lech Walesa of Poland and Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia.

The spirit of Ronald Reagan is kept alive by Young America's Foundation preservation of the Reagan Ranch, Rancho del Cielo (Ranch of the Sky) in California.

THIS THANKSGIVING

This
Thanksgiving . . .
Be thankful, when you're at home . . .
With your family all at peace, remember all
of those so all alone . . .
Who on battlefields can not be home . . .
Families at dinner tables with tears
in eyes . . .
And all of those who upon battlefields of
honor died . . .

The ones who so live without the ones, they
so can not live without . . . who now so
cry . . .
And all of those children, whose daddies and
mommies, can't wipe those tears from
their eyes . . .
And not watch their children grow and smell
that pumpkin pie . . .
The ones who but gave, That Last Full Meas-
ure!
One's Life, The Greatest of All Treasures
. . .

The ones without arms and legs . . .
As their fine eyes they gave . . .
Showing us all, of what a hero is made!
So Few, but for so many . . .
Have carried that load . . .
Have bore all of the heartache so . . .
And when you watch that touchdown
run . . .
While, holding your loved ones . . . having
all that fun . . .
But, let your thoughts to them so run . . .
The ones who died, for what is true . . .
And all of those out on the front, the face of
death must so view . . .
And the loved ones at home, each day who
wait by the door . . . the phone . . .
Bow down now upon your knees . . .
And ask our Lord God, so please . . . to bless
all of these . . . The Families . . .
Who with such heartache, and will never see
another day of peace . . .
And as you say grace . . .
Say a prayer for all of those Heroes of such
splendid grace . . .
Who did not so hesitate . . .
And all of those families, whose loved ones
for them now so wait . . .
Who sit, with one less spot at the Thanks-
giving table set . . .
Be ever thankful, for what they gave . . . and
have to yet . . .
On this day of days . . .
Give Thanks, Be Thankful for all of those
who gave!
This Thanksgiving . . .

PRAISING NEBRASKA'S HONOR
FLIGHTS

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, a week ago, our Nation celebrated Veterans Day. I rise today to honor a couple who have done a great service for Nebraska's Veterans.

Bill and Evonne Williams have organized seven Heartland Honor Flights which made it possible for 1,454 World War II veterans to come to Washington D.C. in 2008 and 2009 to receive the recognition they deserve.

Veterans participating were able to visit the World War II memorial, as well as other points of interest here in the Nation's capital.

I know their visit to Washington was a trip of a lifetime for each and every one of them, and I know I speak for all of us when I thank them for their service to our country. Bill and Evonne also deserve our thanks for making these moments possible. Without their dedication and commitment, we would not have been able to honor these men and women who have helped make our Nation great.